

REMARKS

Claims 22-77 are pending in the Application and were subject to a restriction requirement in the Office action mailed November 15, 2007. Claims 39-53 and 60-77 are cancelled by this amendment, without prejudice. Claims 1, 17, 22, 24 and 25 are independent claims. Claims 2-16, 18-21, and 23 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1, 17 and 22.

Restriction Requirement

The Office action mailed November 15, 2007 sets forth a restriction requirement upon claims 22-77 under 35 U.S.C. §121, grouping claims 22-38 and 54-59 into "Invention I", and claims 39-53 and 60-77 into "Invention II". Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. Notwithstanding, Applicants elect the claims grouped by the Office into "Invention I" (claims 22-38 and 54-59) for further examination in the Application. Applicants have cancelled the claims grouped by the Office into "Invention II" (claims 39-53 and 60-77), without prejudice, and hereby expressly reserve the right to re-file cancelled claims 39-53 and 60-77 in a later-filed continuation or divisional application.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe that all of pending claims 22-38 and 54-59 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early Office Action on the merits and allowance of claims 22-38 and 54-59 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this submission to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Appln. No. 10/760,035
Filing Date: January 16, 2004
Reply to Office action mailed November 15, 2007
Amendment dated December 17, 2007

Should the Examiner disagree or have any questions regarding this submission, the Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (312) 775-8000 to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 17, 2007

By /Kevin E. Borg/
Kevin E. Borg
Reg. No. 51,486

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 775-8000